

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00537 241231Z

50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01

EB-11 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /144 W
----- 023531

O R 241100Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7671

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANKGOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0537

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP XB XC XE

SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S DISCUSSIONS
WITH NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS

1. ASST. SECY INGERSOLL HAD HOUR LONG DISCUSSION WITH
FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY CORNER AND HALF DOZEN MINISTRY
OFFICIALS FEB 22. INGERSOLL DESCRIBED SITUATIONS HE HAD
OBSERVED IN PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA, WITH EMPHASIS ON
LATTER AND POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED INSTABILITY IN THAT COUNTRY.

2. CORNER AND HIS ASSOCIATES GENERALLY AGREED WITH
ASSESSMENT, ALTHOUGH EVIDENCED LESS CONCERN. MORE
SURPRISING, HOWEVER, WAS CHORUS OF CORNER AND HIS
CHOIR WHICH INDICATED NEW ZEALAND DID NOT PERCEIVE WHY
USG OR GNZ SHOULD FIND INSTABILITY IN SEA AS
PARTICULARLY WORRISOME. CORNER STATED GREATEST DANGER
IN PACIFIC AREA WOULD BE INSTABILITY IN US DOMESTIC
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PAGE 02 WELLIN 00537 241231Z

SITUATION. TIM FRANCIS, RECENTLY GNZ HIGH COMMISSIONER

IN SINGAPORE, ELABORATED BY CLAIMING NONE OF THE MAJOR POWERS QTE GIVES A DAMN ABOUT SEA UNQTE AND THAT A STAND-OFF BETWEEN THE MAJOR POWERS HAS BEEN REACHED IN THAT AREA. CORNER ADDED THAT IN PRESENT ERA OF DETENTE, NEITHER CHINESE NOR SOVIETS WOULD BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT TO CAPITALIZE IN ANY SERIOUS WAY ON INSTABILITY IN SEA. IN EFFECT, ALL THOSE WHO SPOKE DURING THIS SESSION ON GNZ SIDE SUGGESTED GNZ AT LEAST, AND PROBABLY USG AS WELL, SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED IF GOVERNMENTS FALL OR TURMOIL EVOLVES IN SEA, EVEN THOUGH BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO HELP ALLEVIATE MISERIES OF THE POPULACE IN THE REGION.

3. COMMENT: SECY INGERSOLL AND CHARGE WOOD FOUND THIS SESSION STARTLING, TO SAY THE LEAST. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT PRIME MINISTER KIRK FEELS THE SAME WAY, ALTHOUGH IN INGERSOLL'S CONVERSATION WITH PM (WHICH WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL), KIRK DID INDICATE HE HAD LITTLE DIFFICULTY WITH THE EMERGENCE OF AUTHORITARISANISM IN MOST ASIAN COUNTRIES. IN THE PAST, CORNER HAS NOT ALWAYS REFLECTED GNZ VIEWS ACCURATELY, AND HE MAY HAVE ENGAGED IN SOME BAITING IN THIS CASE. THAT ALL THE SUBORDINATES PRESENT DID HUM THE SAME TUNE WAS SOMEWHAT DISTRESSING. WE SHALL BE INTERESTED IN SEEING WHETHER THE LINE REFLECTED ABOVE IS MOOTED AT NEXT WEEK'S ANZUS CONFERENCE.

WOOD

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